

February 18, 2022

Dear Members of the Planning Board:

While reviewing materials for the upcoming February 23 meeting, agenda item #5, I was struck by the lack of a well-conceived, truly representative illustration of the proposed parking lot at 19-21 Main Street. As you are well aware, many community members are very concerned about the project for multiple reasons, including the proposed ~18-foot-high mound that the Toomerfs propose to create to uphold what they claim to be an at-grade parking lot at 19-21 Main Street.

I began thinking about how I might enlist someone(s) to help me create a three-dimensional model that would provide a better sense of the scope of the project than the current site plans which fall short of any sort of 3D rendering. After some thought and conversation about this idea, I realized that it was absurd that I should be pursuing this – it is the applicant who needs to provide accurate models of their proposed project, particularly given the concerns about the project not meeting Conditional Use Criteria for the site.

I was not able to attend the site walk but have been told that the topic of a 3D rendering was raised at the walk and that project engineer Mike Sievert implied that he could and would provide one. Yet none has been made available to date.

I hope that you will not approve the Toomerfs proposal. Eric Lund's letter of 2-17-22 lays out six Conditional Criteria which the project fails to meet. I concur with what he wrote.

There are numerous reasons why this proposed project is not good for Durham, but if you were to need only one, consider that the destruction of the urban forest would be calamitous for the wildlife and the humans who live and/or pass through/by there and deleterious in terms of our town's commitment to and need for meeting the growing challenges of climate change. Destroying a precious urban forest is folly.

If you are not ready to reject the Toomerfs proposal based on the information you already have, please be sure to secure 3D renderings of the proposed project to aid you in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hirsch Mayer
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Durham, NH

